

## COVID-19 School Closure Q&A: *Evaluations and Re-evaluations*

### **Does the school have to meet evaluation timelines if schools are closed?**

- Schools must still follow the timeline to complete evaluations (30 school days after receiving your consent), but the school may ask if you will agree to a timeline extension.
- You can say that you do not want to extend the timeline and ask the district to do all the parts of the testing that are possible remotely.
- The school should work collaboratively with you to reach an agreement about the timeline based on your child's needs.
- If the school extends the timeline for the evaluation, they must give you a new date for the IEP meeting.

### **Can I request an initial evaluation for special education services for my child while schools are closed?**

- Yes, you can still ask the school to evaluate your child for special education services. The school should complete all parts of the evaluation that are possible while schools are closed.
- If you got an outside evaluation for your child (from a hospital, neuropsychologist, or other provider), you can give that report to the school and ask the school to consider it.
- The school should create a "partial IEP" if your child is found to be eligible based on the information they have, and do an "extended evaluation" to finish testing and complete the IEP after schools re-open.

### **My child is due for their 3-year evaluation. Will the school do the evaluation while schools are closed?**

- The school may not be able to finish the full evaluation while schools are closed, but they should try to do as many parts of the evaluation that they can remotely.
- For example, the school can still complete questionnaires or ask you to fill out questionnaires to get information about your child.

### **What can I do if the school district will not conduct any part of an evaluation, or will not agree to hold an IEP meeting while schools are closed?**

- You can file an online complaint with the Problem Resolution System (PRS) at the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) by clicking [here](#). If you have questions, you can contact PRS at 781-338-3700 or by email [compliance@doe.mass.edu](mailto:compliance@doe.mass.edu).
- You can also [request mediation](#) or [file for hearing](#) at the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA)

**If you have more questions about your rights:  
Contact MAC's Helpline: 617-357-8431  
[massadvocates.org/helpline](https://massadvocates.org/helpline)**